



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,790	06/24/2003	Juergen Kind	07781.0069-00	8318
60668 7590 11/16/2010 SAP / FINNEGAN, HENDERSON LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413				
EXAMINER				
AN, IG TAI				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3687				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/16/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/601,790

Applicant(s)

KIND ET AL.

Examiner

lg T. An

Art Unit

3687

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 16-34, 36-50, 52 and 53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 16-34, 36-50, 52 and 53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The Remarks filed on 3 September 2010 has been acknowledged. Currently, claims 1 – 13, 16 – 34, 36 – 50 and 52 – 53 are pending and considered as set forth.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. **Claims 1 - 4, 7, 18 - 19, 23 - 29, 37 - 43, 45, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollar et al. (US 20030126048) in view of Lynch et al. (US 20030033242) and in further view of Richard Kochanek (HBJ, Financial Accounting).**

As per Claims 1, 25, 39 and 40, Hollar et al. (hereinafter Hollar) discloses a computer-readable medium comprising a plurality of code modules that control a computer (See Figure 3a; via the system runs with computer program), the plurality of code modules which when executed on a processor cause the processor to operate a computer application, the modules comprising:

a distributing module receiving a total amount and a calculation rule representation from the application to calculate a partial amount representation (See Hollar paragraph 13, 72 – 74 , paragraph 173, and paragraph 208; via the system receives information on contract or agreement, total amount, payments for lease and charges on an accrual basis);

a posting module receiving the partial amount representation to provide a modifying instruction to a first table and to a second table in a database (See paragraph 75, 95 and 200; via report is provided for ledger and journal entries); and

the modifying instruction received by the posting module being executed by the processor to modify a first table and a second table in a database (See figure 1, and paragraph 75, 95 and 200; via report is provided for ledger and journal entries which are processed by a processor in the computer system);

However, Hollar is silent regarding the partial amount representation including an accrual amount value that is posted to an account on a periodic schedule, the periodic schedule being determined by the calculation rule representation; the modifying

instruction being based on the partial amount representation received by the posting module.

Lynch discloses system and method for automated process of deal structuring having the partial amount representation including an accrual amount value that is posted to an account on a periodic schedule, the periodic schedule being determined by the calculation rule representation (Paragraph 124 – 147 teaches calculating monthly payment rate using the total loan amount and rate and time information, every monthly payment made, the balance will be adjusted and the payment made will be accumulated in order to recalculate the balance. Therefore, Lynch teaches partial amount representation including an accrual amount value); and

modifying instruction being based on the partial amount representation received by the posting module (Paragraph 124 – 147 teaches calculating monthly payment rate using the total loan amount and rate and time information).

Therefore, from this teaching of Lynch, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include module to calculate partial amount representation such as monthly payment as taught by Lynch to provide accurate loan related information to customers.

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the prior arts of Hollar and Lynch, and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would

have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Hollar and Lynch disclose all the elements of claimed invention, but are silent regarding each of the first table and the second table in the database being subdivided into credit and debit sub-tables, wherein the modifying instruction executed by the processor to modify the first table and the second table in the database causes either the credit sub-table of the first table, the debit sub-table of the first table, the credit sub-table of the second table, or the debit table of the second table in the database to be modified.

Richard Kochanek discloses financial accounting having each of the first table and the second table in the database being subdivided into credit and debit sub-tables, wherein the modifying instruction executed by the processor to modify the first table and the second table in the database causes either the credit sub-table of the first table, the debit sub-table of the first table, the credit sub-table of the second table, or the debit table of the second table in the database to be modified (See Figure 2 – 4 on page 59; via general journal and general ledger with credit and debit columns).

Therefore, from the teaching of Richard Kochanek, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar and Lynch to include tables being subdivided into credit and debit sub-tables as taught by Richard Kochanek to quickly and easily identify the accounting transactions.

As per Claims 2, 26, and 41, Hollar discloses wherein the calculation rule representation comprises contract information (See paragraph 72; via contract or agreement).

As per Claims 3, 27, and 42, Hollar discloses wherein the contract information comprises data selected from the group of: time points, a sum value, and a history (See paragraph 74; via history information, payment periods, and depreciation calculation. The Examiner construes that payment period is equivalent to payment period and depreciation calculation as a sum value).

As per Claims 4, 28, and 43, Hollar discloses wherein the partial amount representation represents an accrual value (See paragraph 142; via A/R rules determines whether accounting is performed on an accrual basis).

As per Claims 7 and 45, Hollar discloses wherein the distributing module and the posting module each are provided twice to simultaneously calculate based on different rules (See paragraph 104; via various validations are performed at the lease level. In order to validate, two identical data should be sent simultaneously to different algorithm and the result should be matched. Therefore, the Examiner construes that validation is equivalent to providing sets of data twice simultaneously to calculate based on different rules).

As per Claims 18, 37 and 53, Hollar discloses wherein at least one computer application is provided that comprises functions selected from the group of: leasing, stock option accounting, e-business accounting, financial services, customer relationship management, product lifecycle management, and media (See Hollar et al. abstraction; via a system is provided for effectively managing lease transactions in a comprehensive manner).

As per Claims 19, and 38, Hollar discloses wherein the modifying instruction comprises reports (See paragraph 74; via generating appropriate reports).

As per Claim 23, Hollar discloses wherein a visual user interface is adapted to provide remote-control of the distributing module and the posting module (See paragraph 71; user connect to the system using internet or WAN or LAN).

As per Claim 24, Hollar discloses wherein at least one of the first and second tables comprises a ledger (See paragraph 117; via general ledger and journal entries).

4. **Claims 5 – 6, 11 – 13, 10 – 22, 29 – 30, 32 – 34, 44, and 48 – 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollar et al. (US 20030126048) in view of Lynch (US 20030033242) and in further view of Richard Kochanek and in further view of Boicourt et al. (US 20010029475)**

As per Claims 5, 29, and 44, Hollar teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the distributing module receives the total amount and the calculation rule representation with the total amount at a first time point and with the calculation rule at a second time point.

Boicourt et al (hereinafter Boicourt) discloses a financial processing system having wherein the distributing module receives the total amount and the calculation rule representation with the total amount at a first time point and with the calculation rule at a second time point (See Fig 19; balance forward, current month transactions, and the year to date balance. The examiner construes that "balance forward" is equivalent to the total amount of the first time point and the "current month" and "year to date" are equivalent to the calculation rule representation and total amount of the second time point. Calculation rule presentation is considered as the monetary amount that should be credited or debited. Year to date column displays the total amount of balance after adding/subtracting the transactions of current month from the balance forward).

Therefore, from this teaching of Boicourt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include a module receives the total amount at first time point and calculation rules at second time point as taught by Boicourt to easily identify the transaction of money and process accounting information to receive final total balance of the account.

As per Claim 6 and 30, Hollar teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein receiving the calculation rule at the second time point triggers a calculation.

Boicourt discloses a financial processing system having wherein receiving the calculation rule at the second time point triggers a calculation (See Fig 19; balance forward, current month transactions, and the year to date balance. The examiner construes that "balance forward" is equivalent to total amount at first time point and the "current month" and "year to date" are equivalent to calculation rule representation and total amount at the second time point. Calculation rule presentation is considered as the monetary amount that should be credited or debited. Year to date column displays the total amount of balance after adding/subtracting the transactions of current month from the balance forward).

Therefore, from this teaching of Boicourt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include a module receives the calculation rule at the second time point triggers a calculation as taught by Boicourt to easily identify the transaction of money and process accounting information to receive final total balance of the account.

As per Claims 11, 32, 48, Hollar teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the distributing module receives a further total amount and a calculation rule representation from a further application, wherein the further representation has an application identification rule.

Boicourt discloses a financial processing system having a wherein the distributing module receives a further total amount and a calculation rule representation from a further application, wherein the further representation has an application identification rule (Figure 19; via multiple account session number, descriptions for the account sessions, balance forward, current month, and years to date. The Examiner construes that application identification rule is to be the description for the transaction).

Therefore, from this teaching of Boicourt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include a module receives multiple account session number, balance forward, description for the account session, current month and year to date balances as taught by Boicourt to easily identify the transaction of money and accelerate the accounting process.

As 12, 33, and 49, Hollar teaches all the elements of claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the distributing module and the posting module communicate with both applications via first and second interfaces.

Boicourt discloses a financial processing system and method having wherein the distributing module and the posting module communicate with both applications via first and second interfaces (See Figure 1, Figure 19, and abstract; via computer system with different I/Os (Inputs and Outputs) interfaces and the general Ledger account file. The general ledger has the total amount for first time point and the calculation rule (debit/credit) and the final balance (total amount at second point time). The user is

allowed to enter and/or modify various types of data using the computer system and integrates set of software functions).

Therefore, from this teaching of Boicourt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include user interface that communicates with different modules as taught by Boicourt to allow user to modify accounting related data.

As per Claim 13, 34, 50, Hollar teaches all the elements of claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the distributing module is coupled to a user interface to changes rules that have been received from the application.

Boicourt discloses a financial processing system and method having wherein the distributing module is coupled to a user interface to changes rules that have been received from the application (See abstract; via the user is allowed to enter and/or modify various types of data using the computer system and integrates set of software functions).

Therefore, from this teaching of Boicourt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include user interface that communicates with different modules as taught by Boicourt to allow user to modify accounting related data.

As per Claim 20, Hollar discloses all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the representations comprise global identification to identify table entries.

Boicourt discloses wherein the representations comprise global identification to identify table entries (See Figure 19; via description of transaction).

Therefore, from this teaching of Boicourt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include a module receives multiple account session number, balance forward, description for the account session, current month and year to date balances as taught by Boicourt to easily identify the transaction of money and accelerate the accounting process.

As per Claim 21, Hollar discloses all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the distributing module and the posting module both include a reporting function.

Boicourt discloses a financial processing system and method having wherein the distributing module and the posting module both include a reporting function (See Figure 18a, 18b and 18c; via report function on different module).

Therefore, from this teaching of Boicourt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include reporting function in different modules as taught by Boicourt to easily monitor accounting transactions.

As per Claim 22, Hollar discloses all the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein both the distributing module and the posting module cooperate with a visual user interface.

Boicourt discloses a financial process system and method having wherein both the distributing module and the posting module cooperate with a visual user interface (See Figure 1 #14 and #18, paragraph 117, and paragraph 121; via monitor and printer. General ledger with total amount and calculation rule, and the total balance is displayed on the screen).

Therefore, from this teaching of Boicourt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include visual user interface as taught by Boicourt to monitor account transactions.

5. Claims 8 - 10, 14, 31, and 46 - 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollar in view of Lynch (US 20030033242) and in further view of Richard Kochanek and in further view of Eder (US 20010034628).

As per Claim 8, Hollar teaches all the elements of claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein at least one of the rules is defined in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Eder discloses a detailed method of and system for modeling and analyzing business improvement programs having at least one of the rules is defined in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (See table I; via GAAP).

Therefore, from the teaching of Eder, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include GAAP rules as taught by Eder to easily identify transactions and related accounting information.

As per Claims 9 and 46, Hollar teaches all the elements of claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein at least one of the rules is a standard rule, selected from the list of: a percentage, and a discount calculation.

Eder discloses a detailed method of and system for modeling and analyzing business improvement programs having wherein at least one of the rules is a standard rule, selected from the list of: a percentage, and a discount calculation (See paragraph 56; via discount rate calculation).

Therefore, from the teaching of Eder, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include standard rules as taught by Eder to easily identify transactions and related accounting information.

As per Claim 10, 31, and 47, Hollar teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the posting module provides the modifying instruction to a database that is a knowledge warehouse.

Eder discloses a detailed method of and system for modeling and analyzing business improvement programs having wherein the posting module provides the

modifying instruction to a database that is a knowledge warehouse (See paragraph 208; via The software prepares a report summarizing the result of proceeding calculation that is stored in the reports table in the application database).

Therefore, from the teaching of Eder, it could have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include database as taught by Eder to store accounting information and easily retrieve information.

. **As per Claim 14**, Hollar teaches all the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the modifying instruction is provided such to cause prima nota booking.

Eder discloses a detailed method of and system for modeling and analyzing business improvement programs having wherein the modifying instruction is provided such to cause prima nota booking (See paragraph 59; via for the calculations completed by the present invention, a transaction will be defined as any event that is logged or recorded. As best understood, the Examiner construed that the prima nota as update log based on Heinrichs et al. (US 20030204450). In a broad interpretation, transaction is causing the log or records).

Therefore, from the teaching of Eder, it could have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include logs or records of

transaction as taught by Eder to keep tracks of transactions which are used in accounting process.

6. Claims 16, 36, 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollar in view of Lynch (US 20030033242) and in further view of Richard Kochanek and in further view of Langhans et al. (hereinafter Langhans) (US 5621201).

As per Claims 16, 36, and 52, Hollar teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the total amount and the calculation rule representation represents the total amount as a pointer to the database.

Langhans discloses automated purchasing control system having wherein the total amount and the calculation rule representation represents the total amount as a pointer to the database (See column 4 lines 16 – 17; via a pointer in the account database).

Therefore, from the teaching of Langhans, it could have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include a pointer to a database as taught by Langhans to keep the accounting related information correctly in the database.

7. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollar in view of Lynch (US 20030033242) and in further view of Richard Kochanek and in further view of Teng (US 20020091597).

As per Claim 17, Hollar teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the computer program is implemented as a DDIC.

Teng discloses a method and system of using invoice categorization in accounting management application having program implemented as a DDIC (See paragraph 14; via the invention applies concept of database management and data dictionary. The Examiner construes that DDIC as a data dictionary).

Therefore, from this teaching of Teng, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify asset based lease transaction management and accounting system of Hollar to include data dictionary implemented in the system as taught by Teng to store transactions and account information for further use.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 3 September 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. The Applicant first argues, "Applicant notes that the Office Action has not even alleged that Kochanek discloses a 'modifying instruction' that causes a 'sub-table' to be

'modified by the partial amount representation,' as is currently recited in claim 1. The Office Action has failed to even address this element of claim 1. Even if the Office Action is correct, and Kochanek does disclose "tables," the Office Action has failed to even allege that any table is 'modified by the partial amount representation.'" The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The modifying instruction was covered by Hollar as mentioned in the previous office action (See figure 1, and paragraph 75, 95 and 200; via report is provided for ledger and journal entries which are processed by a processor in the computer system). Partial amount representation was taught by Lynch and Lynch's invention discloses making monthly payment for the loan. When monthly payment is made, the bank will be credited and the total amount of loan owed by the user is decreased. Therefore, every time when payment is made, the sub-table is modified by crediting and debiting section and also in total amount left or to be paid. This further can be noted by the Examiner as the piecemeal Analysis because the claim element was covered by Lynch in the action. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

The Applicant next argues, "Furthermore, there is nothing about a deducted 'monthly payment' that could constitute an 'accrual amount value' from the perspective of the payee (i.e., the 'customer.')

No 'amount value' could be 'accru[ed]' by making a

'monthly payment.' To the contrary, a 'monthly payment' is not 'accru[ed]' by the payee in Lynch." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Every monthly payment of Lynch will be accumulated against loan balance of the user or payee (Paragraph 124 – 127). Therefore, the monthly payment has to be accrued against loan balance. Therefore, Lynch discloses the element of an accrual amount value that is posted to an account on a periodic schedule.

The Applicant next argues, "In the Reply to Office Action filed on November 9, 2009, Applicant noted this deficiency in the Office Action and asserted that Lynch does not disclose or suggest a 'modifying instruction' that is based on the 'partial amount representation,' as claimed. See Reply to Office Action, filed November 9, 2009, p. 8. In the 'Response to Arguments' section of the Office Action, the Office Action states '[a]s mentioned in the previous Office Action, Lynch clearly discloses 'the partial amount representation received by the posting module (paragraph 124-147 teaches calculating monthly payment rate using the total loan amount and rate and time information).'" The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As mentioned in the previous office action the claim language 'modifying instruction' was already covered by Hollar. Furthermore, Lynch's art itself implies the modifying instruction. Every monthly payment of Lynch will be accumulated against loan balance of the user or payee (Paragraph 124 – 127). Therefore, the monthly payment has to be accrued against loan balance. Therefore, Lynch's arts contain the modifying instruction being based on the partial amount representation received by the posting module.

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ig T. An whose telephone number is (571)270-5110. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 - 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/lg T An/
Examiner, Art Unit 3687

/Matthew S Gart/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3687